

suffered to come on board, either for the purpose of visiting the officers, or on any pretence whatever, without express permission either from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty or from me. As I understand from Captain Sartorius that General Gourmand refused to deliver the letter with which he was charged for the Prince Regent to any person except His Royal Highness, you are to take him out of the *Slaney* into the ship you command, until you receive directions from the Admiralty on the subject, and order that ship back to Plymouth Sound, when Captain Sartorius returns from London.

It was stated about this time, in some of the English newspapers, that St. Helena would be the place of exile of the ex-Emperor, the bare report of which evidently caused great pain to Napoleon and his suite. General Gourgaud was obliged to return to the *Bellerophon*, not having been suffered to go on shore to deliver the letter from Bonaparte to the Prince Regent with which he had been intrusted. The ship which bore the modern Alexander soon became a natural object of attraction to the whole neighborhood, and was constantly surrounded by crowds of boats. Napoleon frequently showed himself to the people from shore, with a view of gratifying their curiosity. On the 25th of July the number of guard-boats which surrounded the vessel was greatly increased, and the alarm of the captives became greater as the report was strengthened as to the intention of conveying Bonaparte* to St. Helena.

In conversation with Captain Maitlawl, Napoleon, who seemed to be aware that the English fishermen united the occupation of smugglers to their usual trade, stated that many of them had been bribed by him, and had assisted in the escape of French prisoners of war. They had even proposed to deliver Louis XVIII. into his power, but as they would not answer for the safety of his life, Napoleon refused the offer. Upon the arrival of despatches from London the *Bel-tarjrfwn* got under weigh for Plymouth Sound on the 26th of July. This movement tended still further to disconcert the ex-Emperor and his followers. In passing the breakwater Bonaparte could not withhold his admiration of that work, which he considered highly honorable, to the public spirit of the nation, and, alluding to his own improvements at Cher-